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BOROUGH OF

STAMFORD

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the Health of the Borough

for the year

1957



BY THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO WHICH IS ADDED THE  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Senior Public Health  
Inspector



BOROUGH OF

STAMFORD



# ANNUAL REPORT

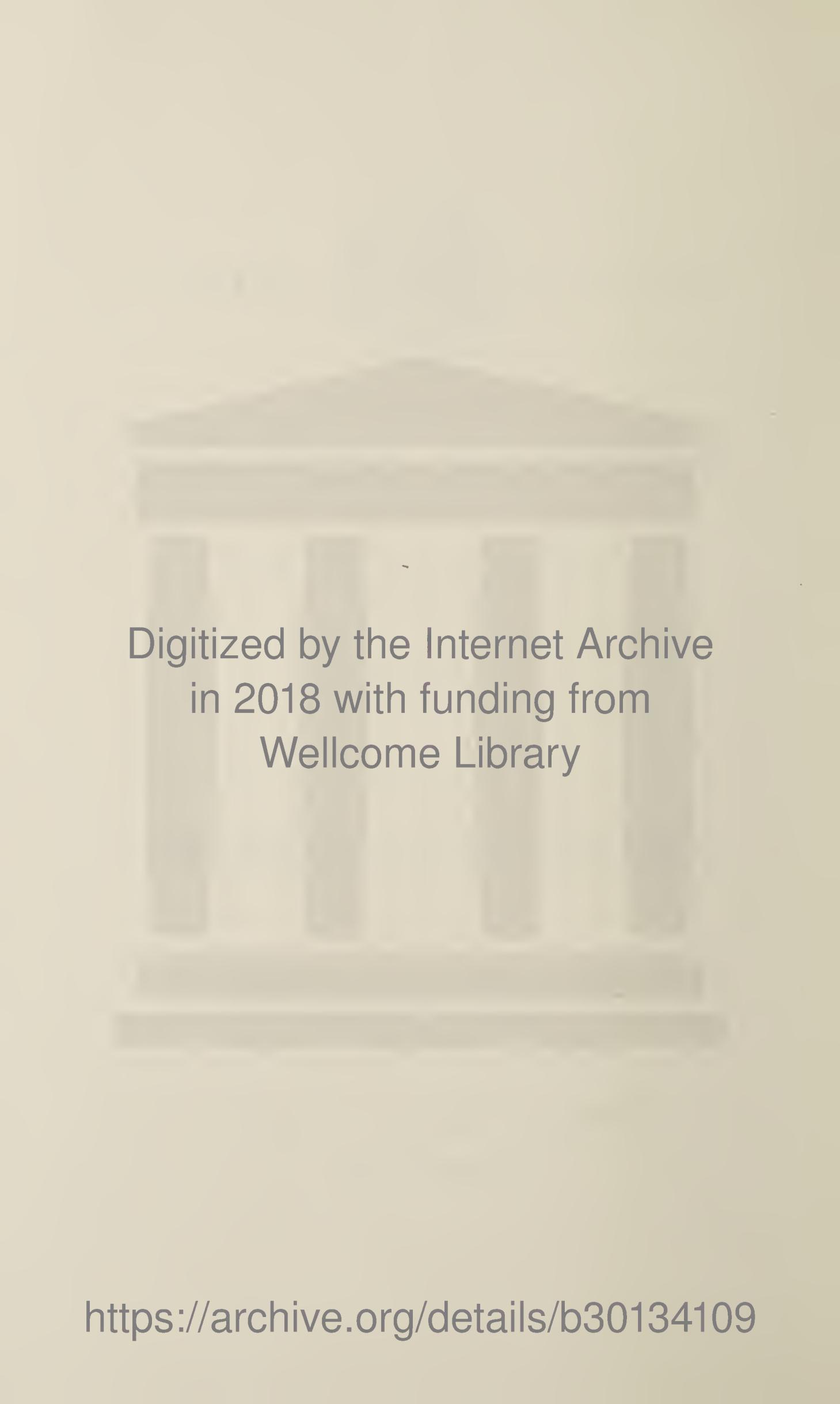
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## BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

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### HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor G. W. Gray (Chairman)

The Mayor

Alderman E. S. S. Bowman, O.B.E., J.P. (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman W. J. Aughton

Councillor L. Large

Councillor Mrs. G. M. Boyfield, J.P.

Councillor J. W. L. Whincup

Councillor F. J. McIntosh

Councillor B. A. Munton

Councillor H. E. Burney.

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### HOUSING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Councillor P. Bullard (Chairman)

The Mayor

Alderman G. C. Swanson (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor L. Large

Councillor Mrs. G. M. Boyfield, J.P.

Councillor L. J. Connor

Councillor A. W. P. Liddle.

Councillor J. W. L. Whincup.

Councillor B. A. Munton.

Councillor J. Frisby

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### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

#### **Medical Officer of Health :**

H. ELLIS SMITH, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

#### **Senior Public Health Inspector :**

L. J. ROLL, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B.

#### **Additional Public Health Inspector :**

A. R. BURT, A.R. San. I., Cert. S.I.B.

# BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

## ANNUAL REPORT

Town Hall,  
STAMFORD.  
May, 1958.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Stamford.

Councillor Nichols, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report  
on the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Conditions of the  
Borough.

## BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

### STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1918 acres
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	10899
Population (Registrar General's estimate 31.12.57)	...	...	...	...	...	11460
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£138,428
Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£510
Number of inhabited houses from rate book at 31.12.57	...	...	...	...	...	3582

### VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	77	75	152
Legitimate	...	74	75	149
Illegitimate	...	3	—	3
CRUDE live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population				13.26
NET live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population				13.53
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	16.1

		M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS	...	1	1	2
Legitimate	...	1	1	2
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Still birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...			12.99
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	22.4

		M.	F.	Total
DEATHS	...	92	92	184
Number of Deaths	...	92	92	184
CRUDE death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...			16.06
NETT death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...			9.96
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.5

INFANTILE MORTALITY (i.e. Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

		M.	F.	Total
Number of Deaths	...	1	2	3
Legitimate	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	19.74
Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	23.0

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :—

Year	No of deaths under 1 year of age
1955	5
1956	4
1957	3

NET DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Under 1 Week	1—2 Weeks	2—3 Weeks	3—4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1—3 Months	3—6 Months	6—9 Months	9—12 Months	Total under 1 Year
Premature Birth, Malformation etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Total	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3

MATERNAL MORTALITY (i.e. Deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion).

NIL.

MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED IN THE BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

1955	...	...	78
1956	...	...	85
1957	...	...	98

The live birth rate at 13.53 is rather lower than the equivalent figure for England and Wales at 16.1 but the Still birth rate was markedly better at 12.99 compared with 22.4.

The Death Rate in the Borough was 9.96 against the National figure of 11.5 but it must be borne in mind that this figure is only achieved by using the comparability factor. This lowers the Crude death rate by over 6 points and indicates the ill balanced population with an undue preponderence of those in the older age categories. This is further stressed by the fact

that there were 32 more deaths than births in the year under review—a natural decrease.

For the third year in succession the Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was the lowest ever previously recorded being 23.0 per 1,000 live births and Stamford further improved on this with a figure of 19.74.

Where populations are relatively small an increase or decrease of only a few in the absolute numbers can result in wide fluctuations in the rates.

I note with satisfaction that the marriages have increased so happily this will be followed in due course by improved vital statistics! On the other hand a judicious acceptance of over-spill from one of the large conurbations might be a quicker method.

## INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES, INJURIES and CAUSES OF DEATHS

					Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	...	...	...	3	1	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung, Bronchus	...	...	...	5	3	8	8
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	...	...	...	—	9	9	9
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus	...	...	...	—	2	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	...	...	...	8	3	11	11
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3	4	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	...	...	11	24	35	35
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	10	4	14	14
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	...	...	4	4	8	8
Other Heart Diseases	...	...	...	12	7	19	19
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	9	7	16	16
Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	6	12	12
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	2	4	4
Other Diseases Respiratory System	...	...	...	1	1	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	2	1	3	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Pregnancy: Childbirth and Abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation...	...	...	...	2	—	2	2
Other Defined and ill-defined Diseases	...	...	...	11	10	21	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	2	1	3	3
All other Accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3	3
Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
	Total	...	92	92	184		

Diseases of the cardio-vascular system again head the list of causes of death accounting for exactly one half (92) of the total. 34 deaths were due to New Growths, a quarter of which were cancer of the lung—which was responsible for one death in 23. The respiratory group of diseases (20) was the third most important. The evidence that tobacco smoke alone or in association with other atmospheric pollution is a potent factor in the rising incidence of lung cancer is so strong that not to accept it is self delusion and a victory for wishful thinking over logic. After swallowing the unpalatable fact the decision is for the individual to make, but it would be unwise for those who have not started to smoke to do so, at least until research has countered the inherent risks.

## FACTORY ACT, 1937 and 1948.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1957

#### 1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	44	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	97	63	—	—

## 2. CASES ON WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	1	—	1	—
Total	1	2	—	1	—

## PART VIII.—OUTWORK

	No. of Out-workers in August LIST required by Sec. 110 (1)	No. of Cases of default sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making)	—	—	—	—	—	—

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

### **NURSING IN THE HOME**

Under the County Council Scheme the Borough has one District Midwife.

Residence :

9, Adelaide Street, Stamford.

and one District Nurse

Residence:

5, Milner's Row, Stamford.

### **HOME HELPS**

Home Helps are provided for the town of Stamford and neighbouring villages in South Kesteven by the County Council from Headquarters at the Barn Hill Clinic, Stamford.

Application should be made to Barn Hill House, Stamford:

Monday and Wednesday afternoons 2—5 p.m.

Friday mornings 9.30—12 noon.

No recruits have come forward for the Night Sitter-up Service and neither have any requests been received.

### **WELFARE FOODS**

Welfare Foods can be obtained from the Barn Hill Clinic at the following times :

Monday to Friday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
------------------	--------------------

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
------------------

Saturday	10 a.m. to 12 noon
----------	--------------------

### **HEALTH VISITOR**

Under the County Council Scheme one full time Health Visitor is employed for work in the Borough.

### **AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The Ambulance Service for the Borough is run by the St. John Ambulance Brigade under the County Council Scheme. There are three ambulances and one sitting case car. This service is to be replaced next year by a County Council directly controlled service.

### **GENERAL HOSPITALS**

Acute Medical and Surgical cases to :—

Stamford and Rutland Hospital, Stamford, of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Chronic and Long Term illness to :

St. George's Hospital, Stamford.

### **ISOLATION HOSPITAL**

Infectious cases are admitted to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital under the Peterborough Hospital Management Committee.

Diseases of the Chest to Chest Hospital, Bourne.

## **TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS**

### **(a) PROVIDED BY KESTEVEN COUNTY COUNCIL**

#### **Child Welfare :**

Weekly Clinic—Friday 2—4 p.m.  
Barn Hill House, Stamford.

#### **Diphtheria Immunisation :**

Diphtheria Immunisation clinics are held at Barn Hill House, Stamford, the first Wednesday of each month, 2—4 p.m.

Numbers immunised during the year :

Pre-school age—37	
School age—27	Total 124
Reinforcing Dose—60	

In addition 13 children living outside the Borough were immunised. 101 children were immunised by the General Practitioners, 86 Primary and 15 Reinforcing doses.

Help at the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic has generously been undertaken by Mrs. Winterton of the British Red Cross Society and Mrs. Sharpe of the W.V.S., to whom I would like to express my sincere thanks.

#### **School Health Service Clinic :**

This is situated at Barn Hill House, Stamford, providing Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic, Physiotherapy, Dental and Speech Clinics.

### **(b) PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD**

#### **Tuberculosis :**

Weekly clinic—Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m.

Under Dr. G. Bernard Royce, Consulting Chest Physician,  
Peterborough Group of Hospitals.

#### **Venereal Disease :**

Clinics are held at the Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. N. A. Ross.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—

5.30—7 p.m.

Tuesdays—

10.30—12 noon

#### **Laboratory Facilities :**

Bacteriological investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, under Dr. D. H. Fulton and the service includes bacterial investigations for both the General Practitioners and Public Health Department.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Water :

The water supply for the Borough is provided by the Stamford Waterworks, a private company.

It is satisfactory in quality and quantity for all domestic purposes. As a point of topical interest there is only a trace of fluorine in it. The sources of supply and the fluorine contents are :—

Bone Mill	...	0.38 parts per million
Leicester Road Springs	0.15	parts per million
Northfields	...	0.25 parts per million
Ryhall Road		0.35 parts per million
Wothorpe	...	0.23 parts per million
Whitewater	...	0.15 parts per million

The advantage of Fluorine is in reducing the prevalence of dental decay, as can be clearly seen in one parish in a nearby part of the County. Its efficacy is accepted by the World Health Organisation whom I quote, "The effectiveness, safety and practicability of fluoridation as a means of preventing dental caries—one of the most prevalent and widespread diseases in the world is now established."

The approximate daily consumption is 750,000 gallons which, allowing for industrial usage, approximates to 35 gallons per head per day. With heavy demands for water for all purposes from Atomic Piles to Zymosis this element is regarded as a vital National asset and the proposed regionalisation of all water supplies throughout the land is the inevitable outcome.

It is axiomatic that the more water used the more sewage there is to be treated and purified. This was more than the old works were capable of doing adequately and it was a great relief when the construction of the new extensions commenced in May. By the end of the year 40% of the work had been completed.

The Public Baths are a most popular amenity of the town during the summer months. The water and surroundings are kept under strict supervision. Rules for health and cleanliness are displayed for compliance and recordings of chlorine content, acidity and temperature are consistently kept. Further minor improvements have been effected during the year, and the decision to purchase a Minuteman Resuscitator is a further indication of the Council's determination to ensure the safety of all who engage in this health promoting pastime—or only come to watch.

Bacteriological examinations of the water on various occasions gave satisfactory results.

Two cases came to my notice of houses infested with vermin. Such incidents are rare and quite contrary to the high standards of cleanliness, good order and housewifery which are normally evident.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS THEREFROM

Notifications received during the year.

	Total Cases Notified 1957	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Total Cases Notified 1956
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...	21	1	—	30
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ...	—	—	—	6
Food Poisoning ... ... ...	2	2	—	—
Erysipelas ... ... ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ... ...	24	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ... ...	14	—	—	84
	61	3	—	121
In addition 19 cases of Pneumonia were notified ... ... ...	19	10	—	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>132</b>

### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES

		Not known	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ... ... ...			1	3	14	2	1										21
Food Poisoning ... ... ...		2															2
Measles ... ... ...		1	2	6	4	5	6										24
Whooping Cough ... ... ...		2	3	1	1	3	4										14
Pneumonia ... ... ...								1	2	1	4	3	4	4	4	19	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>80</b>	

The incidence of notifiable diseases, excluding tuberculosis, was lower than in the previous year being 80 compared with 132 in 1956 and 293 in 1955.

It was gratifying that there was no case of either Poliomyelitis or Dysentery.

Scarlet Fever accounted for a quarter of the total number. This manifestation of the protean streptococcus no longer has the virulence that once it had and hospital admission for it is exceptional, though in one instance it was necessary. The cases occurred sporadically and illogically throughout the year.

While the occupier in any household where a case of infectious disease has occurred is informed by letter of his obligations under Public Health Law in preventing the spread of the disease the efficacy of this and other methods of control are absolutely dependent on speedy notification.

With the colder weather of autumn, the influenza which in previous months had spread from China to Western Europe descended upon Stamford affecting young, old and both sexes alike as with its new antigenic structure there was little resistance to it.

Blood samples taken from patients proved that the invading organism was the Influenza Virus Type A (Asian Flu). Clinically, it was similar to other influenzal epidemics and produced its quota of pneumonia particularly in the older age categories and was directly responsible for one death.

The pattern of disease has changed over the years. The acute infections, thanks to immunising procedures and improved environmental conditions on the one hand and the therapeutic triumphs of the sulphonamides and antibiotics on the other, have lost their status in the realms of disease. Few deaths are attributable to them and if the new vaccine against poliomyelitis fulfils the high hopes which are entertained of it, the last infectious disease which strikes terror in the public mind may well be brought under control also.

There has not been a case of diphtheria in the Borough for 12 years but this immunity can only be ensured by a continual programme of immunising the children before their first birthday.

The degenerative diseases are now the challenge to Preventive Medicine and Control. They may be physical as in hardening of the arteries, bronchitis, new growths and dental caries. They may be mental, as typified in the illness of the mind unable to cope with the stresses, the strains and the unremitting demands of modern life. The threats to mental health were never so great as today and so Mental Hygiene must now take its place alongside Physical Hygiene. Both categories take a heavy toll of the community and a mere increase in expectation of life without positive health and happiness to accompany it is a Pyrrhic Victory.

When is a goldfish not an article? When it is exchanged for rags brought by small children. This deplorable line of trading in rags was advertised blatantly on one occasion by handbills, near to one school. No action under the Public Health Act was possible owing to a legal loophole which, while prohibiting any article being given to a small child by a rag dealer yet permits a goldfish to be exchanged.

## TUBERCULOSIS

	Deaths during 1957				New Cases during 1957			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 "	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
25—35 "	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 "	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 "	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 "	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	—	—	4	2	1	—

8 new cases of tuberculosis were reported in 1956

Six new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year; the same number as in 1956 and one death was recorded.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board visited the Borough in March and operated from Messrs. Blackstones and the Town Hall. The response and findings were :—

Number attended for X-ray	6042
Number x-rayed for first time	2815

## NON-TUBERCULOSIS.

Congenital anomalies of bony thorax	...	96
Old fractures and injuries to chest	...	12
Azygos lobe vein	...	17
Pneumonia and temporary pneumonitis	...	5
Bronchiectasis	...	8
Chronic bronchitis	...	38
Pleural Thickening and fibrosis due to previous pneumonia and/or pleurisy		98
Diaphragmatic conditions	...	4
Congenital heart conditions	...	5
Acquired cardiovascular conditions	...	35
Retrosternal thyroid	...	1
Bronchial carcinoma	...	3

## TUBERCULOSIS.

1. Healed primary or other calcified lesions requiring no further action	...	...	97
2. Previously diagnosed tuberculosis already under supervision	...	...	8
3. Newly discovered significant tuberculosis requiring :—			
(a) treatment	...	...	1
(b) further observation at chest clinic			4

Dr. Daphne Smith, Medical Director of the Unit expressed her satisfaction with the public response to the visit, except for the men aged 45 and over. It is in this age and sex group that the reservoir of tuberculosis infection often lies and it is from this source that the new entrant to work, if susceptible, may acquire his or her infection. In conclusion she says, "There is therefore no prospect of firm control of tuberculosis infection in future unless a constant watch and attack is kept on the pool of infectors and the level of infection in younger examinees closely checked. This is the role mass radiography will have to play in the future."

The fact remains that while the total annual deaths from tuberculosis throughout the country are only a quarter of what they were just ten years ago, fresh cases have not declined proportionately. To meet this challenge the closest co-operation between the treatment and aftercare services and the follow up of contacts of all known cases is essential.

The Council give priority to the rehousing of tuberculous patients where this is recommended after full consultation with the Chest Physician. During the last three years eight such recommendations were made and all eight have been rehoused.

## HOUSING

### PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

Statistics of new houses erected in the Borough during 1957 as supplied by the Housing Department :

#### 1. BUILT BY LOCAL AUTHORITY :

Traditional Brick Houses	...	...	42
Houses in course of erection at end of year			44

#### 2. BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :

Traditional Brick Houses	...	...	17
--------------------------	-----	-----	----

Applicants for Council Houses as supplied by the Housing Department at December 1957 :

Effective Housing List	...	...	102
Tied and Service Tenants	...	...	29
Old Person's Dwelling Applicants	...	...	42
Miscellaneous Applicants	...	...	8

The Council's Slum Clearance programme is one of 91 houses of which 50 were included in the scheme for the first five years. Up to 31st December 68 houses had been dealt with. The year saw the virtual completion of the East Street/ Elm Street clearance with all but one of the occupants of the condemned properties rehoused. It is most satisfying to think that this area will be redeveloped by the erection of old people's dwellings, as the site is level and near to the town centre and near ideal for the purpose. Incidentally the demand for old people's dwellings and those suitable for the small family is as heavy as ever and shows no sign of diminishing. This need comes from both the normal Waiting List and from the requirements of the Slum Clearance programme. A further Clearance Area was declared in Brookes Court involving 10 houses. The rehousing of these persons was tied up with the erection of the 44 new houses in West Street and these also were earmarked to receive the tenants who will be displaced from Lumby's Terrace in order that the houses there can be extensively altered and modernised.

The close liaison between the Housing and Health Committees has made the operation of Slum Clearance and rehousing a smooth and truly combined one and it has been possible to arrange rehousing in the type of accommodation best suited to the needs of the individual case and often in the geographical situation they would like as well, thanks to the happy decision to build 20 maisonettes in West Street.

In spite of all the difficulties which beset house building and financing during the year it was a great achievement to have completed 42 new Council houses by 31st December; with a further 44 in the course of construction, compared with 26 and 42 respectively the year before. Private enterprise also showed its confidence in the future with 17 completed houses compared with 7 in 1956.

It is of interest to note that the Council owns 1281 houses (inclusive of the Empingham Road hutments) out of 3582 inhabited houses, more than one in every three.

That 6 Improvement Grants were given is a clear indication that the requirements of old but savable properties are by no means overlooked.

16 new caravan licences were granted during the year apart from renewals. The 18 sites on the Council's caravan site were continually occupied and there was always a waiting list for any vacancy which might occur. In addition individual caravans were licensed on other sites. It is a great source of regret to me that there are no legal standards for residential caravans as are applicable to other forms of human habitation. The lack of them leads to different standards in different areas

and makes adequate control over such facets of them as over-crowding exceedingly difficult. That legislation has not caught up with their popularity is indicated by the fact that it is estimated that in this island some 200,000 people make their homes in 80,000 caravans!

The Council operate a comprehensive Points scheme for rehousing applicants and during the year 20 applications were received for priority rehousing on health grounds. All of these received a personal visit and were investigated before a recommendation was made, and I would like to thank my medical colleagues in the town for their continuing help in this work.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 have established a Code of Practice which has been largely adopted throughout those businesses where food is handled, and only three cases were found during the year which required action by the Health Department to ensure compliance with more acceptable standards. The customer and the pressure of the purse are potent factors in improving standards as food shops which offend the aesthetic senses are avoided. It is clear that the food purchasing public are now more fastidious than at any time since the war ended.

The Municipal Slaughterhouse continues to provide a first class service to the town and attempts to widen its basic function to include Dead Weight Certification has been in my opinion rightly resisted. This would inevitably, by the unrestricted reception of casualty animals, have lowered its overall efficiency and the current high standards of the throughput. 100% meat inspection is maintained.

There are no private slaughterhouses in the Borough.

The problem of "Blood splash" has been raised repeatedly as it is a condition prone to affect pigs. Admittedly too little is known as to the exact cause of this post mortem condition but I would suggest that it lies more in the constitutional and nutritional state of the animal at the time of slaughtering and in technique than in the instruments which are used for stunning or subsequently.

The premises from which Ice Cream is sold have been kept under supervision and also those of the ice cream factory. Samples of ice cream in the course of production and on sale were taken for bacteriological examination.

A report was received from the Port of entry that a consignment of foreign apples had been found to contain excessive quantities of lead and arsenic. Local investigation led to the discovery of some of this cargo and samples were taken for analysis. This showed the presence of 1.7 parts per million

of arsenic and 4 parts per million of lead. Both were slightly above the recommended limits and appropriate action was taken. Such an incident indicates the dangers which can arise from the improper use of the potent sprays now used in Pest Control.

The Chief Weights and Measures Inspector of the County Council, Mr. Hawley, took 35 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. The articles sampled being :—

Butter	...	...	...	1	Fish Paste	...	...	1
Cambridge Cheese	...	1			Glucose (Medicinal)			1
Cherry Wine	...	...	2		Honey	...	...	1
Coconut (dessicated)	1				Margarine	...	...	2
Cream, double	...	2			Marzipan	...	...	1
Cream, sterilised	1				Milk	...	...	15
Cream of chicken soup	1				Orangeade	...	...	1
Digene	...	...	...	1	Peanut butter	...		1
Malt Vinegar	...	1			Sausages	...	...	1

There was no infringement in any of the samples taken.

In his report Mr. Hawley says "Some of the best milk in the County comes from the Stamford area and it is not surprising therefore to find that the 15 samples taken in the Borough had an average butter fat content of 4.4% with 9.01% of other solids." This should be interpreted by comparison with the permitted minimum of 3% butter fat and 8.50% of other solids. There is a considerable demand for Channel Island milk with its higher butter fat content.

One complaint was investigated. This concerned the presence in a piece of bread of a dead fly. The complainant was satisfied that a full investigation had been made and a warning letter was considered appropriate.

## FOOD POISONING.

Two cases were reported during the year. Both occurred in the Stamford and Rutland Hospital and the cause in spite of investigation was not discovered.

## HEALTH EDUCATION.

Should this really be a separate heading? It must form an integral part of every aspect of Public Health work and its tentacles should reach into every home.

Poster material devised by the Central Council for Health Education, to which the Council subscribes, covering a wide variety of Health topics was displayed during the year outside the Town Hall. It is however the words of those who believe in positive health and more important their actions which make the greatest impact on the general public. It must be remembered that it is what the young are taught in their own

homes now that will go far to set future standards, whether these be dietetic, safety in the home or just good domestic and personal hygiene. Legislation for health in itself is of little avail, and there has been a spate of it in recent years, if it is not interpreted and made intelligible to the public and it is this important function which the Health Inspector has to fulfill in addition to his other multifarious duties.

I was privileged to give a course of lectures on Accidents in the Home to the British Red Cross Society in addition to First Aid lectures, each of which presented opportunities in this field.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

It was not necessary actually to use the powers given under Section 47 of this Act, but in one case referred to in last year's report, preliminary action had been taken before the person concerned consented to enter welfare accommodation voluntarily.

During the year I was called upon to investigate a number of cases of a socio-medical nature and to endeavour to solve the problems presented by them. The majority involved elderly persons living alone in squalor and these presented the greatest difficulty. Four of them lived in almshouses.

Either from loneliness or absence of relatives and accompanied by failing, physical or mental resources, they had withdrawn from society and the accepted ways of society. They prepared scanty and insufficient meals and neglected their persons and their homes until their condition was pitiable. Such persons lie beyond the resources of the Home Help Service and the visits of members of the Old People's Welfare Committee. They refuse the offer of Welfare accommodation as they hold steadfastly to their own ideas of independence. This is the problem of the social breakdown of the elderly in its acute form. Fortunately they are relatively few. Advancing age however brings its problems and in the future society will have to do more for the older members of the community, who have had a very small share of the cake which the other end of the age scale has enjoyed.

Would an Elderly Persons Welfare Clinic, run along the lines of the Maternity and Child Welfare one, where advice and chiropody could be made available, help those who are approaching the Autumn Days of their life and help to make of these an Indian Summer?

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and especially to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their help and keen interest in all aspects of the work which I have attempted to review in this report. I also wish to thank all the members of the Health

Department for their loyal and unfailing support and also my other colleagues on the Staff.

Finally to Dr. Anley Hawes who has stood by for me during my absences, my grateful acknowledgment of his help and my best wishes for his impending retirement, which unfortunately brings this arrangement to an end.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. ELLIS SMITH.

### BOROUGH OF STAMFORD

### SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957

#### TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS

Meat and Foods	...	...	...	317
Housing and Overcrowding		...	...	191
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	14
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	50
Shops and Factories	...	...	...	63
Water Supplies	...	...	...	58
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	68
				—
			TOTAL	761
				—

#### NOTICES SERVED

	Issued	Complied with
Informal	22	18
Statutory	8	4

#### MEAT INSPECTION

Business continued to expand at the Municipal Abattoir during the year, and the total number of animals slaughtered was 10,684, the highest number slaughtered since Council operations commenced and as far as I am aware, exceeding the total in any year under Government operation. Once again 100% inspection was maintained, though only by a great deal of work outside normal working hours. It is, however, gratifying to know that since 1941 when I assumed responsibility for meat inspection, not one animal has passed through the Abattoir without being inspected. Again I have to pay tribute to the invaluable assistance of Mr. Burt, who in addition to the work of inspection, undertook managerial work at the Abattoir during the prolonged absence on sick leave of the Manager, Mr. Hibbitt, at the end of the year.

The purchase of the Abattoir was completed during the year and improvements at the premises included the installation of a new boiler with steam jet for pig scalding, the pro-

vision of the new floor in the hanging room and the rendering and painting of its walls.

Some concern was expressed at the increased incidence of "blood splash" in pig carcasses. The question of stunning by electrocution was considered, but on the evidence available it was decided that there was no case for its adoption as a means of preventing "blood splash". Experiments were tried using a different type of captive bolt pistol but with little apparent effect.

The amount of meat condemned, a total of 15,809 lbs., is approximately the same as last year but with an increase of rather more than 10% on last year's "kill" the amount of meat condemned per carcase shows some reduction. It will be interesting to see what the effect on the amount of Tuberculosis seen in the Abattoir will be when this part of the country becomes an eradication area for Tuberculosis under the scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The smooth conduct of operations at the Abattoir is in no small measure due to the ready co-operation of the slaughtering Contractor and his staff and it is gratifying to record that it was possible to grant some increase in the Contractor's slaughtering rates, without any increase in the tolls paid by the butchers.

TABLE 1.

	CATTLE exclg. Cows	CATTLE Cows	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
No. of Animals Inspected	1303	14	10	4552	4805
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned...	4	—	—	—	6
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	61	1	—	—	329
Percentage of animals affected with T.B. ...	4.9%	7.14%	—	—	6.97%
DISEASES OTHER THAN T.B.					
No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned...	1	—	—	9	33
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	156	2	1	56	469
Percentage of animals with diseases other than T.B. ... ... ...	12.04%	14.28%	10.0%	1.42%	10.44%

No case of *Cysticercus Bovis* was observed during the year.

TABLE 2.

DETAILS OF CONDEMNED MEAT SHOWN IN TABLE 1

Meat Condemned	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Veal
Whole Carcasses and Offals ...	4	9	38	—
Heads ... ... ...	31	—	204	—
Tongues ... ... ...	31	—	204	—
Pairs of Lungs ... ...	101	30	370	—
Livers ... ... ...	100	24	41	—
Plucks (complete) ... ...	—	2	53	—
Fats (Mesenteric) ... ...	9	—	140	—
Spleens ... ... ...	7	—	5	—
Hearts ... ... ...	2	4	92	—
Kidneys ... ... ...	4	—	14	2
Skirts ... ... ...	1	—	—	—
Forequarters (whole) ...	1	—	—	—
Hindquarters (whole) ...	—	—	—	—
Other parts of Carcasses ...	4	9	14	—

### CLEAN FOOD REGULATIONS

In general the co-operation of the various food traders has been good. Action was taken to secure improvement in various structural matters at a fried-fish shop, a bake-house, a milk-bar and a mineral water bottling establishment, and these works have since been carried out.

Representations were also made as to the unsatisfactory method of disposal of the sink-waste from the Canteen at the Swimming Baths and as it was impossible to make a connection to the main sewer, the construction of a cesspool was approved by the appropriate Committee.

A complaint relating to an insect found in a loaf of bread was referred to the Food and Drugs Authority as being a case of food not of the nature, substance and quality demanded.

### OTHER FOODSTUFFS

Two notifications were received from the port of arrival, regarding imported apples found to be contaminated with excess quantities over the permitted tolerance of lead and arsenic. In one case, some of the fruit concerned was tested locally and detained, pending a report on a check sample, as a result of which the apples were released after appropriate treatment.

The following foodstuffs other than butchers' meat have also been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

**MEAT PRODUCTS**

Bacon	46 lbs.	Sausage (beef)	9 lbs.
Chicken (whole)	2 tins	Steak, Stewed	2 tins
Corned Beef	32 tins	Tongue, Ox	6 tins
Ham	1 tin	Veal, Jellied	6 tins
Pork Roll	1 tin		

**FISH**

Anchovies	2 tins	Pilchards	4 tins
Brisling	2 tins	Prawns	10 lbs.
Haddock, Smoked	14 lbs.	Salmon	3 tins
Herrings	2 stones	Sild	1 tin

**FRUIT AND PRESERVES**

Apples	2 tins	Oranges	17 tins
Apricots	11 tins	Peaches	50 tins
Apricot Jam	1 jar	Pears	16 tins
Cherries	1 tin	Pineapple	49 tins
Fruit Salad	1 tin	Plums	4 tins
Grapefruit	1 tin	Raspberries	4 tins
Loganberries	2 tins	Tomatoes	51 tins

**VEGETABLES**

Beans	7 tins	Peas	1 tin
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**MISCELLANEOUS**

Biscuits	15 lbs.	Margarine	11½ lbs.
Butter	27 lbs.	Milk (Evap.)	7 tins
Cheese Spread	3 pks.	Soup	3 tins
Cream	1 tin		

**ICE CREAM**

There were two additions during the year to the number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

Practically the whole of the Ice Cream now retailed in the Borough, is of the pre-packed varieties made by large national distributors. Two samples of Ice Cream manufactured locally were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue test, and both were reported as being of Grade I standard.

**MILK AND DAIRIES**

There was one addition to the Register of Distributors during the year and one distributor gave up business, with similar alterations in the Licences issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1954. The number of distributors and of licences therefore remains unchanged.

As the Borough of Stamford is a Specified Area under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1954, enforcement of the order is the responsibility of the County Council and I am informed by Mr. J. F. Lofthouse, County Health Inspector, that five samples of milk taken in the Borough during the year all passed the prescribed tests and that two samples of raw Tuberculin Tested milk submitted for Biological Examination were found to be free from tubercle bacilli. Two samples of undesignated milk produced but not consumed in the Borough were also found on Biological Examination to be free from tubercle bacilli.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The various sources supplying the Borough were kept under supervision and the results of the samples taken from such sources are given in the annexed table.

Notification of the results of four samples from the well at St. George's were received from the County Health Inspector, the unchlorinated being unsatisfactory but the chlorinated satisfactory.

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. Dutton, Manager of Stamford Waterworks, for the results of the chemical analysis of each of the sources supplying the Borough, which were in all cases reported as satisfactory in this respect.

Type of Water	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Chlorinated	24	22	—	—
Unchlorinated	29	26	—	3

Two samples of chlorinated water were not reported upon as a result of laboratory accidents.

Samples of chlorinated water from the Stamford School Swimming Pool and from the large and small Pools at the Municipal Swimming Baths were all reported free from Bact. coli, but a sample of water from the foot-bath showed Bact. coli present in 100 ml.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One licensed Pet Shop was kept under observation and as a result of changes in facilities available to the occupier during the year, the licence was not renewed at the end of the year.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Enquiries have been made in connection with 21 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Appropriate measures of disinfection were carried out. Enquiries were also made in respect of 8 Tuberculosis cases, following the removal of patients to hospital for treatment and appropriate measures of disinfection were carried out, in two cases by this Department and in the remainder by the occupiers of the premises concerned.

No action has been necessary in respect of infestation by bugs, but two houses were disinfested by the Local Authority in respect of fleas and similar action was taken in four cases by tenants under supervision from this Department. One notice to cleanse a house was served at the end of the year.

## PRESERVED FOOD, ETC., FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

The number of registered premises is now 43, there having been one additional registration during the year.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SEC. 269

32 applications for licences to station moveable dwellings on sites within the Borough of Stamford were received and approved, mainly in respect of changes in occupation for the Council's Empingham Road Caravan Site. Some difficulty was experienced from unauthorised camping in the Brownlow Street/Belton Street areas from itinerant van dwellers and the provision of the Empingham Road Site has not yet solved this problem.

## RAG FLOCK ACT 1951

The single registration of premises under the Act remains in force.

## HOUSING INSPECTION

Good progress has been made during the year with the work of slum clearance. Confirmation of a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of an area in East Street/Elm Street was obtained without modification and the tenants have all been re-housed. Confirmation of a Clearance Order in respect of 10 houses comprising Brooks Court was also obtained and in addition 18 individual unfit houses were dealt with by Demolition or Closing Orders, or the acceptance of Undertakings not to use for human habitation and the tenants of these individual houses have all been re-housed.

10 houses were inspected as a result of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act. In 3 cases work was done before any action was necessary, in 3 cases Forms "J" were issued, producing in 1 case the carrying out of repairs and in the other 2 cases an undertaking to do this. The remaining 4 applications were under consideration at the end of the year.

12 houses were inspected as a result of application for an Improvement Grant. In 8 cases a Grant was approved and in 4 cases refused. Approved schemes for Grant-aid were completed in respect of 4 houses during the year.

No. of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	191
No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	119
No. of Houses inspected and recorded						90
No. of Visits made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	163
No. of Houses Unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	36
No. of Houses not in all respects fit	...	...	...	...	...	47
No. of cases of Statutory Overcrowding discovered	...					1
No. of cases of Statutory Overcrowding abated	...					Nil

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS

No. of Houses dealt with in Clearance Areas and vacated	10
No. of Houses in Clearance Orders confirmed	10
No. of Houses dealt with by Demolition Orders and vacated	5
No. of Houses closed by Orders under Local Govt. Act, 1953	8
No. of Houses closed by undertakings under Housing Act, 1936	5
No. of Houses under licence for temporary occupation	1
No. of Houses made fit as a result of Notices under Sec. 9, Housing Act, 1936	1

## PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No. of Houses in respect of which Notices were served for Abatement of Nuisance	3
No. of Houses where nuisances were abated	1

L. J. ROLL,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

June, 1958.







